



Fair Political Practices Commission

428 J Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814

www.fppc.ca.gov

NEWS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
December 6, 2004

Contact: Sigrid Bathen
Theis Finlev
(916) 322-7761

Commission considers domestic partners regulation Dec. 9 ***Rule codifies earlier opinion treating partners as spouses***

A regulation interpreting the term "spouse" to include a registered domestic partner for purposes of the Political Reform Act will be up for adoption by the Fair Political Practices Commission at its monthly meeting Thursday (Dec. 9) in Sacramento.

The meeting begins at 9:45 a.m. in the FPPC's eighth-floor hearing room at 428 J St. (Fifth and J Streets) in Sacramento.

The commission approved an opinion at its October meeting which treats registered domestic partners the same as spouses – with the same rights and obligations under the Political Reform Act. The opinion was in response to a request from David W. Roberts, a candidate for the Solana Beach City Council in San Diego County, who asked the commission to address the possible implications of legislation which generally treats domestic partners as married couples by amending the California Family Code.

Effective Jan. 1, 2005, Assembly Bill 205 amends the Family Code to provide that registered domestic partners have the same rights and obligations as spouses. In light of this legislation, the commission concluded that the term "spouse" as used to determine an official's economic interests for purposes of disqualification and disclosure under the Political Reform Act, generally includes a registered domestic partner. The commission indicated at the October meeting that regulatory language should be adopted to codify its conclusion in the opinion.

In other business at Thursday's meeting, the commission will adopt regulations increasing the gift limit from \$340 to \$360 for 2005-06. The gift limit is adjusted biennially by the commission to reflect changes in the annual average California Consumer Price Index.

The commission will also review the proposed 2005 regulatory calendar as well as FPPC staff legislative proposals. And it will consider a number of other agenda items, including a variety of proposed enforcement actions.

The agenda is posted on the FPPC website at: www.fppc.ca.gov. Click on "Agendas" on the left side of the home page, and go to "Current Agenda." For more information on a particular agenda item, including enforcement stipulations, orders and exhibits and legal

2-2-2-2

memoranda and supporting documents, go to “Agendas” on the web site, then to “Current Agenda,” then click on the links in the agenda items.

Letters responding to items on the agenda after it was posted on the website 10 days prior to the meeting can be found at the top of the agenda on the website.

###